

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 3-8, 19-24, 28 and 31
- After this Amendment: Claims 3-8, 19-24, 28, 31 and 50

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: None

Amended claims: 19

New claims: 50

Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of fuel between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.

4. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of water between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.

5. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of personnel between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.

6. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating the exchange of electrical power between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.

7. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the interface is capable of facilitating transmission of electronic communication signals between one or more of the vessel's systems and the mission module.

8. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising a foil-assisted hull.

9-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A water vessel comprising:

a hull;

a top deck coupled to the hull;

a bay disposed below the top deck and accessible via an opening defined

by the hull;

a mission module disposed in the bay that contains specialized equipment for performing a specific mission ~~other than providing crew and passengers safe accommodations in the event that the vessel sinks~~, and configured to be coupled with one or more systems of the vessel to allow access to the equipment, wherein while the mission module is coupled with the vessel's one or more systems, the module's equipment enables the vessel to perform the specific mission, and while the mission module is not coupled with the vessel's one or more systems, the vessel is not enabled to perform the specific mission; and wherein the a-bay capable of receiving the mission module and including includes:

an interface capable of releasably coupling the equipment of the mission module with one or more of the vessel's systems, and

a mounting structure capable of releasably holding the mission module in the bay while the mission module is coupled with the bay's interface.

20. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured for a single mission.

21. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module contains equipment for performing one of the following missions: a mine hunting

mission, an anti-submarine mission, a special-operation mission, and an intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance mission.

22. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module contains all the specialized equipment for performing a specific mission.

23. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the mission module includes at least one of the following, a weapons turret and an antenna, each mounted to the module's structure and exposed for use while the module is releasably held in the vessel's bay.

24. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising a ramp capable of supporting a mission module as the module is moved into the bay.

25-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a sailing ship.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising a multihull.

32-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising struts disposed as part of the hull that define a cavity through which water may flow beneath the mission module.